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Tuesday, 14 December 2010, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Anderson	(United States of America)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Vukobratović
	Brazil	Mr. Leitão
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Sumi
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Russian Federation	Mr. Kravchenko
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Nkayivu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham

Agenda

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/611)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/611)

The President: I have received letters from the representatives of the Central African Republic and Chad, requesting to participate in this meeting. I propose to invite those representatives to participate in this meeting without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Security Council, I extend an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

It is so decided.

Participants have before them document S/2010/611, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

I now give the floor to Mr. Youssef Mahmoud.

Mr. Mahmoud: As you know, Madam President, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) will lower its sails at the end of the month and start liquidation on 1 January 2011. The Secretary-General's report before the Council (S/2010/611) is therefore his last on MINURCAT as a mission. My task today is to highlight the main points and to make one or two observations.

On the security and humanitarian situation, as the report describes, the situation in Chad remains relatively calm, as does the situation in refugee camps and sites for internally displaced persons. Fears that widespread criminal activities would resume after the rainy season have so far proved to be unfounded. This is largely attributed to the vigilance of Chadian central and local authorities and increased effectiveness on the part of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) and the joint Sudan-Chad border patrols. However, the humanitarian situation remains a concern and the need for assistance continues to be immense. Chad still hosts more than 250,000 refugees, and the country is still coping with the consequences of this year's heavy rains in the east and elsewhere.

With regard to the DIS, since the Secretary-General's previous report (S/2010/529), all administrative, management and operational responsibilities have been transferred to the DIS under the supervision of United Nations police. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will assist the Government of Chad to sustain the DIS through the creation of a basket fund managed by UNDP and operational assistance provided by UNHCR. The DIS will require continued assistance from the international community during the post-MINURCAT period.

Pursuant to resolution 1923 (2010), five humanitarian forums aimed at promoting a shared understanding of the protection of civilians were held in various locations in eastern Chad. The last forum will be held on 15 December in N'Djamena to wrap up discussions held in the previous ones. The last High-level Working Group meeting, also mandated by the resolution, will be held on 21 December.

In line with the Government of Chad's early recovery programme in the eastern part of the country, MINURCAT's substantive sections have spared no effort to consolidate their achievements in the areas of rule of law, human rights, gender, HIV/AIDS and intercommunity dialogue, as well as to transfer these activities, when feasible, to the Government of Chad, other United Nations agencies or other national or international partners. My deputy, Ms. Rima Salah, will meet with the United Nations country team and the Government of Chad on 21 December to mark the end of MINURCAT activities and to officially hand over MINURCAT civilian programmes.

Pursuant to resolution 1923 (2010), all MINURCAT uniformed personnel will have left Chad and the Central African Republic by 31 December. MINURCAT withdrew from the Central African Republic on 15 November. On 18 December, the Force

Commander will be the last military person to leave Chad. The last United Nations police officer will leave on 29 December. Only those civilian staff required for the liquidation of the Mission will remain in Chad after 31 December.

I should like to seize this opportunity to thank the Governments of the Central African Republic and Chad for facilitating the withdrawal of MINURCAT. I encourage the Government of Chad to continue to do so throughout the liquidation period and until the last MINURCAT personnel and assets have left the country.

Permit me to say a few words on the Central African Republic. The situation in the north-eastern part of that country remains of concern. Barely 10 days after MINURCAT's withdrawal from the region, on 24 November to be exact, a rebel group attacked the town of Birao and occupied the camps. The Central African authorities have since regained control of those two camps. In the light of regional instability, sustained attention to the eastern part of the Central African Republic is required.

Pursuant to paragraph 27 of resolution 1923 (2010), MINURCAT commissioned a lessons learned exercise. Key findings from the MINURCAT experience were outlined in paragraphs 49 to 63 of the Secretary-General's report. Of particular relevance were securing and sustaining the consent of host nations and the creation of a nationally owned and internationally supported security entity for the protection of civilians. It is the Secretary General's earnest hope that these lessons will be of assistance to the Council as it considers the evolution of peacekeeping as a whole and contemplates future operations that are solely devoted to the protection of civil*ians*.

(*spoke in French*)

Despite its murky beginnings and the challenges it has had to face throughout its short existence, MINURCAT has had some notable achievements. In that connection, the eastern part of Chad will never be the same. MINURCAT not only helped to ensure the physical protection of civilians, refugees, internally displaced persons, host communities and humanitarian workers working under Chadian officials, it also provided them with legal and social protection. That was appreciated by the Government and by the host population. I thank them for that.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for having entrusted this challenge to me. I would also like to thank the members of the Security Council for the trust they have shown in me throughout the last months of the Mission.

The President: I thank Mr. Mahmoud for his briefing and I now give the floor to the representative of the Central African Republic.

Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, for the briefing he has just given us on the last report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/611) on the activities of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), the mandate of which expires on 31 December, pursuant to resolution 1923 (2010).

I note that the report contains a certain number of recommendations and lessons learned for future peacekeeping missions. Its lessons are therefore a source of inspiration not just for the peacekeeping and peacebuilding organs, but also for States. Indeed, we stress that a series of initial misunderstandings were ultimately overcome. We thank Mr. Victor da Silva Angelo, the previous Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who helped to organize MINURCAT.

The Central African Republic notes with satisfaction the withdrawal of MINURCAT, which began on 15 November with the closing of the two military camps in Birao. We acknowledge that MINURCAT discharged its tasks within the limits of its capacities and contributed to ensuring a relatively stable environment in the north-east of the country through its deterrent presence; by assisting refugees, internally displaced persons, and humanitarian agencies; and by resolving inter-ethnic conflicts. The Central African Republic has benefited from the assistance of MINURCAT in establishing its authority over the region. We appreciate the positive role it played throughout its mandate.

The announced withdrawal of MINURCAT led to debates within the Security Council about the follow-up stages, given the ongoing threats in the north-east due to the limited capacities of the Central African forces, the fragility of State institutions and the persistence of insecurity. The idea of a transition period was even mentioned. Recommendations were

made by the international community to strengthen and deploy the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic, while the Central African Government pleaded for the operational capacities of its own armed forces to be strengthened. Time, however, was all too limited for it to achieve all its wishes.

While the Government gradually prepared to deploy troops to Birao, that city was attacked on 24 November, to our collective surprise. The attackers were armed with heavy weaponry, including 14.5 millimetre bi-tube machine guns, 12.7 millimetre rounds and mounted rocket launchers, while the Central African troops had nothing more than Kalashnikovs. There was no comparison. Moreover, the rebel groups came from Darfur to join up with the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP). The Central Africans, with whom we are very familiar, do not have such sophisticated weapons.

We believe that they want to reproduce the situation in Darfur in north-eastern Central African Republic, which is a very important area geopolitically and geostrategically and the soft underbelly of the region where the rebels of Chad, the Sudan and the Central African Republic can converge easily. We would add that the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army occupy four prefectures in the Central African Republic.

The Birao event does not only concern the CPJP and its search for weaponry; it also endangers international peace and security in the frontier regions. We ask the members of the Security Council to take these facts into consideration and to be alert to a possible rebel coalition.

As members of the Security Council know, the Central African Republic is at a crossroads. It is obligated not only to hold successful general elections in 2011, but also to guarantee security throughout its territory. The Government has chosen the electoral period in which the people shall do their civic duty to coincide with the dry season, which is also a dangerous season rife with armed groups, rebels, bandits and road-blockers. That reality was reflected in the attack on Birao. However, we note the implementation of certain regional agreements with respect to this situation, for which we are grateful.

Calm has now been restored. On 10 December, the President of the Republic even visited Birao to encourage the armed forces and reassur the area. We reiterate once again the ap on 10 August and 20 October by Mini Affairs Antoine Gambi to the internatio to support the Central African arme equipment, transportation, observation military materiel so that they can ac mission with enthusiasm and efficien request has been addressed to friendly co

We have yet to receive a response as the Government prepares to enter a We have expressed our ongoing reinforcements for our security and de which cannot remain passive and ill-eq face of regional forces that are very we equipped. The major responsibility falls who must be properly equipped if they their sovereign duty and be proactive Regional missions are observer missio limited mandates. The withdrawal of would therefore appear to be an opportun security sector reform and demobilization and reintegration. We ther the international community to spare helping us to move these processes forwar

In conclusion, we thank MINURC contributing countries that have helped us time, howsoever brief. We thank the Secre for his very useful and enlightening report, our gratitude to Mr. Mahmoud, who himself to the Central African Republic United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Central African Republic and MINURCAT.

Attention must not be withdrawn situation in the north-east of the cou remains fragile. We request the assista international community and ask friendly pursue their efforts to equip our security forces and to ensure a smooth electoral pro deadline established.

The President: I call on the repres Chad.

Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) *(spoke in Fren* genuine pleasure for me to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Security this month. Allow me also to welcome the Mr. Mahmoud, the Special Representati Secretary-General.

We welcome the high-quality report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/611) to the Security Council on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). It gives a true picture of the reality on the ground and makes relevant observations and recommendations that should be taken into account by the Security Council. That allows us to limit our statement to the absolute minimum, given that the Security Council is already overburdened by the many crises taking place across the globe.

If the Security Council will allow me, we would like to stress in particular that the non-renewal of the MINURCAT mandate is fully justified, and we welcome the successful implementation of the agreement between Chad and the United Nations on the drawdown of the Mission from eastern Chad and the transfer of responsibilities to the Chadian Government. Since the drawdown process began, we are pleased to have seen that the security situation has improved in eastern Chad, and that improvement has taken place despite some isolated and minor cases of insecurity. Therefore, we are far from seeing the catastrophic situation that some parties said would arise when the Government of Chad asked for the withdrawal of MINURCAT from eastern Chad, although we still need the continued support of the international community to strengthen our financial, technical and material capacities in terms of protecting civilians.

The Chadian Government, through me, would like to reiterate its commitment and determination to continue to efficiently fulfil its mission to protect civilians, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP), including their voluntary return to their homes. To do so, we are counting, of course, on the support of the international community in many forms, particularly in terms of financing a plan for sustaining the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS), because that original police force, which was set up within the framework of the MINURCAT mandate, has always played a vital role. It was the DIS that ensured security in the refugee and IDP camps and the areas surrounding them. It has provided security escorts and ensured security in the zone in coordination with the National Gendarmerie and the Nomad National Guard of Chad. In 2011, our plan for sustaining the DIS foresees a budget that will cover operations and logistics at a cost of about $20 million, which is far less than the hundreds of millions of dollars going to MINURCAT each month. For that reason, we are optimistic that the Security Council will be diligent in ensuring that the international community will continue to support us in fulfilling our security and humanitarian missions after the full withdrawal of MINURCAT.

For our part, we have taken measures to support, as best we can, the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law. Among other initiatives, the Coordination Nationale de Soutien aux Activités Humanitaires et au Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (CONSAHDIS) was created to replace the Coordination nationale d'appui à la force internationale à l'est du Tchad (CONAFIT), which is well known.

I cannot close without expressing my pleasure at the excellent cooperation that has always existed between the United Nations and my Government in dealing with the security and humanitarian challenges resulting from the situation reigning in the eastern part of my country. Of course, MINURCAT was not as perfect a mission as we had hoped it would be. That United Nations mission of a very special nature, in which many hopes were placed, did not meet our numerous expectations.

Nevertheless, in a very special environment and at a given point in time, MINURCAT did play a positive role in terms of protecting vulnerable people, refugees, displaced persons, humanitarian workers and others. We should acknowledge that role and pay tribute to it. The international community, in particular the Security Council and the peace- and justice-loving countries, should be thanked here. The institutions and donor countries that provided troops, funding and equipment should also be warmly thanked.

We also recognize and thank the generous donors who have set up the special trust fund for financing the DIS. We also recognize the tireless efforts of the humanitarian workers, particularly those of the various non-governmental organizations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, and so forth. They should be both thanked and acknowledged by us. Nothing would have been possible and nothing will be possible in the future without their multidimensional support and their efforts on the ground.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, who today gave his final briefing to the Council in his capacity as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). We have appreciated his leadership of MINURCAT and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

There are no further speakers on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on this subject.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.